

# West Downtown Toronto L.I.P. UPDATE



April 2010

## We're Launching Our New Website !!!

The West Downtown Toronto Local Immigration Partnership is happy to announce that we are launching our new website at [www.TorontoLIP.com](http://www.TorontoLIP.com).

The website includes information about our three Neighbourhood Partnership Councils and our settlement planning initiative. It also includes the development of a Services Directory that provides agencies serving newcomers in the area with the opportunity to plot their service locations on an area map and include full descriptions of their available services.

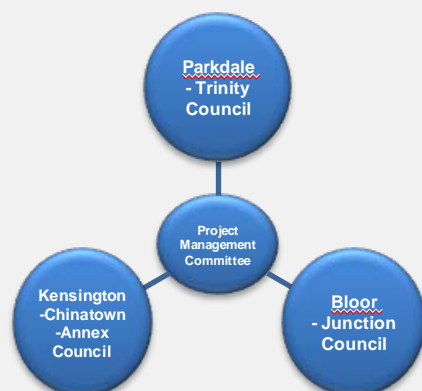
Go to [www.TorontoLIP.com/Services](http://www.TorontoLIP.com/Services) to explore our services directory. Agencies are adding new information every day, so feel free to visit the directory often.

***Want to Register Participants for Our  
Member Agencies' Focus Groups?***

*See details on page 2.*

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## March 2010 Joint Council Workshop a Success

Since the first Joint Council Workshop in November 2009, each of the three Neighbourhood Partnership Councils has been meeting separately each month to engage in the preliminary review and development of local settlement strategies for their neighbourhood. All three of the Councils came back together on Friday, March 5, 2010 for the LIP's second Joint Council Workshop.

During the full day session, Council members presented the results of their Council's preliminary review and development of local settlement strategies. Council members also reviewed a test version of the new website and the website's new services directory.

***Six Council member agencies are conducting informal non-English focus groups in April. To register participants, see the contact person in "April Focus Groups" (below left).***

### April Focus Groups

**Urdu Focus Group** – Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to noon; Centre for Information & Community Services; 416-299-8118 ext 112 (Sana); [s.afzal@cicscanada.com](mailto:s.afzal@cicscanada.com)

**Mandarin Focus Group** – Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm to 5:50pm; University Settlement, 720 Spadina; 416-977-8325 ext 235 (Jeanette); [jeanette.johnston@usrc.ca](mailto:jeanette.johnston@usrc.ca)

**Spanish Focus Group** – Working Women Community Centre; 416-650-0529 (Sylvie); [scharliekaram@workingwomencc.org](mailto:scharliekaram@workingwomencc.org)

**Tamil Women Focus Group** – Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>; Parkdale Community Health Centre; 416-537-2455 ext 310 (Myrtle); [myrtle.robichaud@pchc.on.ca](mailto:myrtle.robichaud@pchc.on.ca)

**Francophone Focus Group** – La Passerelle; 416-934-0588; [narcisse@passerelle-ide.com](mailto:narcisse@passerelle-ide.com)

**Eritrean Focus Group** – Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 3pm to 5pm; Eritrean Canadian Community Centre; 416-658-8580 ext 227 (Kibrom); [k.debru@eccctoronto.ca](mailto:k.debru@eccctoronto.ca)

As part of the day, Public Interest, the research firm hired in January 2010, reported on their initial project research (literature review, statistical data, interviews, and focus groups) regarding: (i) newcomer system access and navigation issues, (ii) barriers to settlement, including language, employment, and housing, (iii) impacts of these challenges on newcomers' health, and (iv) vulnerable newcomer populations including women, youth, seniors, and newcomers with precarious status. In addition, Peter Bruer, St. Stephen's Community House Conflict Resolution Service, spoke about decision-making processes and consensus building.

In the afternoon, the Council members separated into four breakout sessions to discuss the following topic areas:

- Labour Market – including Employment Services and Supports & Workplace Language Training
- Settlement Services – including Youth, Seniors, Family Supports, and General Language Training
- Health & Emotional Support
- Welcoming Communities and Social Change

During these sessions, the Council members began to explore whether any of the preliminary local settlement strategies developed by each Council would be better implemented by all three Councils operating together, rather than separately. The Councils are meeting separately in April and May and will come back together for the third Joint Council Workshop in June 2010 to engage in a process to begin to develop neighbourhood work plans for the implementation of each Council's final settlement strategies.

# Settlement Strategy Development in West Downtown Toronto

As part of this initiative, each of the three Neighbourhood Partnership Councils has been engaging in the preliminary review and development of local settlement strategies for their neighbourhood. The Councils have reviewed and built upon the work included in the West Downtown Toronto Settlement Service Strategy report dated February 2009, and have also had the benefit of the extensive research conducted for the LIP by the Public Interest research firm.

The settlement strategies being developed by the Councils include (but are not limited to) strategies to foster service collaboration and partnership; to increase access to suitable and effective English language training; to increase access to professions, employment and entrepreneurial endeavours; to effectively serve and support youth, seniors, families, newcomers without status, and marginalized newcomers; to increase access to culturally competent health care, dental care and mental health supports; to support increased access to legal services; to effectively serve and support newcomers affected by violence; and to support social change in the areas of income security, housing stability, racism, discrimination, and homelessness.

The strategy development process for the Councils is ongoing. Once this step has been completed, the Councils will develop the work plans to implement their strategies.

## New Services Directory & Map

Our LIP's new services directory and area map can be found at [www.TorontoLIP.com/Services](http://www.TorontoLIP.com/Services). This directory is designed to be used by frontline staff members looking to refer clients to available services in the downtown west Toronto area. (It is not designed to be used by newcomers themselves.) The directory includes a search function that can search available services by:

- Service Category
- Service Language
- I.D. Requirements
- Day of the Week

The service information in the directory is input into the system directly by the service agency. That way, each agency in downtown west Toronto can fully control the information that is made available about their upcoming events and ongoing services.

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#### Members of the Project Management Committee

- ACCES Employment
- Centre for Addictions and Mental Health
- Eritrean Canadian Community Centre
- FCJ Refugee Centre
- JobStart
- Parkdale Community Information Centre
- Scadding Court Community Centre
- South Asian Women's Centre
- St. Christopher House
- St. Stephen's Community House

#### Our L.I.P. Objectives

The objectives of the West Downtown Toronto L.I.P. Initiative are:

- To improve the social and economic integration outcomes of vulnerable newcomer populations through the creation and implementation of three neighbourhood settlement strategies and settlement service plans in the Parkdale-Trinity, Kensington-Chinatown-Annex, and Bloor-Junction neighbourhoods.
- To involve newcomers, settlement service organizations, employers and other neighbourhood stakeholders in a process to develop three Partnership Councils and create and promote three neighbourhood settlement strategies.
- To create and implement detailed settlement service plans and new pilot initiatives in the areas of service coordination and mentoring in all three neighbourhoods in a process that is linked and complementary

Neighbourhood Partnership Councils – Member Organizations		
BLOOR-JUNCTION COUNCIL	KENSINGTON-CHINATOWN-ANNEX COUNCIL	PARKDALE-TRINITY COUNCIL
<i>Bathurst to Parkside/Keele &amp; College to St. Clair (approx.)</i>	<i>Yonge to Bathurst &amp; Lake Ontario to St. Clair West (approx.)</i>	<i>Bathurst to Parkside/Keele &amp; Lake Ontario to College (approx.)</i>
Abrigo Centre	ACCES Employment	ACCES Employment
Bloor Information and Life Skills Centre	African Canadian Social Development Council	Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)
Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre	Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH)	COSTI Immigrant Services
Community Action Resource Centre	Centre for Information & Community Services of Ontario (CICS)	CultureLink
Community Connectors	Centre francophone de Toronto	Dufferin Mall Youth Services
CultureLink	CultureLink	Gallery 1313
Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Centre	FCJ Refugee Centre	George Brown College
Eritrean Canadian Community Centre of Metropolitan Toronto	JobStart	JobStart
Community Connectors	JVS Toronto	Kababayan Community Centre
FCJ Refugee Centre	La Passerelle	Parkdale Community Health Centre
Parkdale Golden Age Foundation	Scadding Court Community Centre	Parkdale Community Information Centre
South Asian Women's Centre	Skills for Change	Parkdale Community Legal Services
St. Stephen's Community House	St. Stephen's Community House	Parkdale Intercultural Association
Toronto Catholic District School Board	The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association (TCCSA)	Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services
Toronto District School Board - Bickford Centre	The Kensington Health Centre	Salvation Army, Florence Booth House
Toronto Public Health	Toronto Catholic District School Board	St. Christopher House
Toronto - Social Development, Finance & Administration Division	Toronto Community & Culture Centre (TCCC)	St. Joseph's Health Centre
Wellesley Institute	Toronto Community Housing	St. Stephen's Community House
Working Women Community Centre	Toronto District School Board	Toronto Catholic District School Board
YMCA Korean Community Services	Toronto Employment and Social Services	Toronto District School Board
Youth Employment Services (YES)	Toronto Public Health	Toronto Employment and Social Services
	Toronto Public Library	Toronto Public Health
	University Settlement Recreation Centre	Toronto Public Library
	Women's Health in Women's Hands	Toronto Western Hospital
	Workers' Action Centre	Toronto Workers' Health and Safety Legal Clinic
	YMCA of Greater Toronto	Ward 14 (Parkdale-High Park) Constituency Office
		YMCA of Greater Toronto

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